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performing tricks along with genuine phenomena, and therefore experiments must be conducted in such a way as to prevent any possibility of fraud. It is certainly more difficult to critically analyze every experiment than to continue collecting experimental data without such analysis.

As I have mentioned, in order to maintain controlled conditions, we placed the object to be bent (for example, an aluminium bar) into a sealed box of transparent plastic. This bar was covered by a thin layer of putty or other soft material which would indicate how the pressure of a force is distributed along the bar, i.e., is the force applied to one point or is it a uniform continuous pressure? The bar was bent a few minutes after the box was handed to a subject, and subsequent analysis showed that the pressure seemed to be uniform.

Some subjects liked to take the sealed box and go to another room where nothing prevented them from concentrating. Therefore, we had to find a method that prevented any fraud under these conditions. To do this we used a closed box with the metal bar in it along with a glass cylinder filled with two unmixed powders of different colors. The idea was that if the subject shook the box or turned it over, the powders would become irreversibly mixed.

After the metal was bent even under these conditions, we asked ourselves: could the subject obtain this result by means of any trick? We concluded that the only possibility for the boy was to use the centrifuge from a washing machine; if a box is placed in a centrifuge, the influence of the centrifugal force can bend the bar without mixing the two powders. However, it is extremely unlikely that this boy, during the short period of time when he was in another room with the box, could reach the washing machine (which was in the basement), put the box in the centrifuge in the correct position (any other position would lead to mixing the powders), and come back with a bent bar. At this point we can only stress the necessity for further studies of the phenomena."

Interviews were conducted by Larissa Vilenskaya

#### EVIDENCE OF MACRO-PSYCHOKINETIC EFFECTS PRODUCED BY THOMAS OF BRAZIL

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The history of science has been characterized by a series of anomalies appearing on the horizon of the prevailing world view. These "taboo discoveries," because of their prematurity are generally ridiculed and ignored. George Bernard Shaw once remarked that "All great truths begin as blasphemies" and Harman [1] in a very scholarly exposition describes many of the blasphemies in science, particularly with reference to consciousness research and psychic phenomena. As recently as 1966, D.O. Hebb [2], a leading behavioral psychologist, rejected the strong scientific evidence for telepathy "because the idea does not make sense."

While there has been some unjust criticism of science being totally committed to the worship of scepticism and dealing with a predictable world in which the events of the psyche have no meaning, a number of scientists have been investigating the increasing frequency of gaps in official versions of reality. A complete issue of Psychoenergetic Systems [3] was devoted to reporting sophisticated experiments of psychokinetic metal fracture physics and critical examinations of the "Geller effect." Complementing the experimental data, a number of theoreticians such as J.H. Walker and Nick Herbert [4] have been attempting to explain PK phenomena by expanding the quantum theory of systems and mathematical physics.

This paper is a report on a series of observations over a period of two weeks in January 1981. The subject is Thomas Green Morton Souza Coutinho, a thirty-four year old Brazilian pharmacist who was struck by lightning at the age of twelve. Subsequent to that experience he began exhibiting a wide spectrum of paranormal abilities that became increasingly more dazzling over time. It prompted one of the Brazilian researchers, Mario Machado, [5] who

Approved For Release 2003/09/10 : CIA-RDP96-00792R000700350005-8

spent weeks with Thomas in his laboratory under every controllable condition possible, to describe the phenomena as "the wondrous real magic of the mind." Throughout our observations there were a number of people present. These included Theresa, Thomas' 54 year old cousin who is blind; Jim Jensen, an American businessman and president of a large, successful corporation; Gary Richman, a free-lance journalist and our translator; Heloise Gorman, a psychologist; and her husband Tom who is marketing manager for Kodak of Brazil. The position that I will be taking in this paper is that of a "psychic naturalist" - simply observing as carefully and openly as possible without seeking mechanisms or meanings.

In São Paulo we were sitting with Thomas having coffee and as he picked up a teaspoon to stir his coffee, the spoon curled up in a complete 360 degree "loop the loop." He then picked up a second spoon and it too twisted while we were observing him stirring his coffee. It happened quickly but we could see the spontaneous bending of the metal. I took the spoon and could not unbend it without exerting a fair amount of force. We compared the spoons and they looked like carbon copies of each other - both twisted in the identical fashion. This was to become a common occurrence. Spontaneous metal bending would occur both in his presence (touching and not touching the metal objects) and on several occasions when he was in the house but not in the same room as the phenomena.

One morning, when coming to a private home in São Paulo (where Thomas was staying), we began to detect an increasingly strong fragrance of a mixture of jasmine and eucalyptus which seems to surround Thomas and predominate his environment. The fragrance becomes particularly evident when phenomena are about to happen and our logical explanation at the time was that it was a shaving lotion or someone had sprayed perfume. However, Thomas claims that it is the "calling card" of his "extraterrestrial guide" or energy that he has named Xils.

The next day Thomas suggested we drive with him from São Paulo to Pouso Alegre, the town where he was living some three hundred kilometers away. On our way out of the city,

we stopped at a large hospital and waited for Thomas in the lobby while he went to the seventh floor to visit a patient for healing. As he entered the elevator, the jasmine/eucalyptus fragrance permeated the lobby and got increasingly strong during his half hour absence. We also stopped at a macrobiotic restaurant for lunch and once more the fragrance filled both the upper and lower levels of the restaurant.

During dinner in Pouso Alegre that evening, Thomas began pouring enormous quantities of salt in his beer and while stirring it with a dinner knife, the knife twisted into an S shape. He then took a fork to continue stirring and the prongs of the fork twirled and curled around themselves ending up like some abstract psychic sculpture. Thomas seemed curiously silly and almost agitated that evening and he kept pouring salt onto everything he was eating. He picked up another fork, speared a piece of lettuce and held it for his wife to eat. Within seconds, the second fork twisted and bent into a carbon copy of the first.

In the course of dinner, we were joined by a young honeymooning couple and Thomas felt the occasion should be honored with a special gift. He took a piece of soft foil that is found in cigarette packages and seemed to go into a meditative or trance consciousness as he began tearing pieces of foil and folding the larger piece in a certain fashion. There was both an air of mindlessness and total absorption about him as he took a toothpick and began probing the foil as if he were examining an insect. At this point, he excitedly remarked that the "energy was arriving" as he began to experience a coldness and "goose-bumps" on both his forearms. Then suddenly, within a fraction of a second the finished product had been transmuted or teleported on to the table before us. It was a hard, silvery metal phoenix bird with very fine detail in its wings, head, and tail feathers. Its dimensions were approximately two inches in diameter and one inch high. At no time did Thomas touch the tin foil with anything other than the tip of the tooth pick and while the transmutation was taking place, his hands were eight inches or so back from the foil. During the process, Thomas appeared to be

September 1982

PSI RESEARCH September 1982

PSI RESEARCH

Approved For Release 2003/09/10 : CIA-RDP96-00792R000700350005-8

straining very hard to mobilize or hold the energy and once the phenomena happened (or sometimes just as it was about to happen) he released the energy with a loud "h-ra-ah!"

During the week, Thomás was to transmute a number of metal objects from cigarette package foil. The foil was always provided for him by various members of our group and during the psychokinetic or transmutational process his hands remained above the table. He would on occasion interrupt his intense concentration and occasional pulsating to say that the energy was going away. Following a brief rest, he would try again and usually succeed. There were instances however when he would release the energy with the accompanying "h-ra-ah!" and nothing would happen. Thomás' reaction to failure was to shrug his shoulders matter-of-factly and accept these occurrences as part of the overall picture. Thomás also explained that he must say definitivo (definite) following "materializations" or they will sometimes revert to their original matter or energy state.

Following dinner Thomás went to the refrigerator in the room and opened a bottle of mineral water with a metal bottle opener. As he placed it back in the refrigerator, it suddenly bent into a forty-five degree angle looking like a perfect "V". Gary Richman returned to his room shortly thereafter and noticed that the bottle opener on his refrigerator had also bent into a "V" identical with the one in Thomás' room. Gary had his hotel key with him during our brief visit with Thomás and no one else had access to his room.

During our most recent visit with Thomás (December, 1981) I was following him through a cafeteria line which had a succession of different kinds of salads displayed in five large bowls. Thomás walked right by the salad bar without stopping or touching anything but as I reached for the spoon-like ladle, I noticed that all five spoons (fourteen to eighteen inches in length) were all bent in the now familiar 360 degree loop-the-loop fashion. Shortly thereafter, Thomás sat on an all-metal folding chair at our dinner table and in five minutes the bottom portion of it "melted" as if it were made of hard butter and Thomás found himself on the floor. I got another metal chair from the

dining room and within five minutes or so it too "melted" and collapsed Thomás on to the floor. Two waiters then brought in a very large, heavy metal backless piece of furniture for Thomás and this held up throughout dinner. In conversations with waiters and the management of that restaurant they acknowledged that spontaneous metal bending was common when Thomás was present. At times, the phenomena would occur at other tables or locations in the room and the circumstances would have to be brought to his attention.

It should be mentioned that Thomás usually consumes considerable scotch whiskey while waiting for his energy bursts. It is almost as if he is anesthetizing his cortex with alcohol because his powers appear to get stronger as the night wears on. A point of diminishing return is inevitably reached, however, and Thomás will then exit and retire for the evening. At the same time, many transmutations, materializations, metal bending and so on often occur both spontaneously and with directed energy without his having consumed any alcohol. Thomás believes that the alcohol seems to amplify the energy when he is working over a three to four hour period.

The next phase of our working with Thomás began with placing a number of coins from different countries on the table before him. It was a very warm evening, and as was to become typical of his dress code for extended sessions, Thomás wore only trousers and was bare from the waist up. He asked for a piece of tin foil, picked up an American silver dollar and held a small piece of foil against the edge side of the coin with just his thumb and index finger. We could see the edges of the foil under his thumb and as the energy and concentration built up he punctuated it with his usual "h-r-a-ah!" and the foil suddenly transmuted into a carbon copy of the phoenix bird that was presented to the young honeymooners the night before. Jim Jensen was then invited to pick up the silver dollar and hold it in the palm of his tightly closed hand. Thomás realized that a transmutational energy was building up and took the coin from him, placed it on a sheet of paper and traced the circumference of it with a pencil. Jim picked up the dollar again, held it tightly as Thomás closed his eyes and began

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to build up energy. He stopped at this point, asked Jim his astrological sign (Pisces) and then had us all grasp a piece of metal and say "feesh... feesh" over and over. After a minute or so, Jim experienced what he described as a "pung sensation," opened his hand, and the silver dollar had been replaced with a beautiful medallion. There were two porpoises with the word Peixes (Pisces in Portuguese) on one side and all the astrological signs on the other. We traced the medallion on a sheet of paper and it was an eighth of an inch wider than the circumference of the original silver dollar. Jim remarked that he was going to have a metal clasp made and wear it around the neck. Thomas took the medallion and said he would create a clasp with a toothpick. As we watched, a small lip of metal began to slowly extrude from the top of the medallion but Thomas could not get it to form a closed circle. He finally gave up saying "that energy" had dissipated for now.

One day during lunch Thomas asked Jim to take the thigh bone of a chicken on one of the plates, scrape it clean and break it in two (the bone was approximately five inches in length). Thomas seemed to slip into a very deep state of concentration and asked Jim to fit the two edges of the broken bone together and hold them in that position. He then put each of his index fingers on the back of Jim's hands. Gary, Jim and myself could all see a bluish type of energy move from around the chicken leg and then localize at the juncture where the bone had been snapped. After several seconds, the bone suddenly fused together and we examined it very carefully in the sunlight but could find no evidence such as a telltale scar where it had been broken. Thomas in his excitement took the bone back, examined it, and began waving it over his head. As he did this, the end of the bone flew off and it fractured apart once more but about an inch away from the original break. Thomas then spoke very movingly and meaningfully about the healing capabilities that we all possess and that "electrical energy" is the basis of healing. He added that "all matter including inanimate substances are infused with an "intelligent energy" at a very basic level.

In the course of gathering data and affidavits from other witnesses of Thomas phenomena, two persons (one was a lawyer) indicated that they provided Thomas with a ten cruzeiro note which was then transmuted into a thousand cruzeiro note (worth about \$14.00 US). Thomas admonished them not to spend the note or it would revert back to its original ten cruzeiro state. One of the individuals still has the transmuted currency but the other took the thousand cruzeiro bill to a grocery store, purchased groceries and cigarettes, and as she handed the note to the cashier, in the brief moment it took to exchange hands, it transmuted back to a ten cruzeiro bill. A related experience occurred when Thomas asked me to obtain a brand new, crisp, ten cruzeiro note, fold it, and hold it in my closed hand (again, he never touched the currency and was approximately six feet from me throughout this demonstration). He appeared to work extra-hard at mobilizing energy, released it with a "h-r-a-a-h!" and when I opened my hand, the new bill was replaced with an old crumpled worn ten cruzeiro note that had been out of print and circulation for over forty years. In all instances, we have documented the before and after transmutations with photographs and careful recording of the serial numbers of the currency.

Together with Thomas we visited the "fasqueira" (place of lightning), an open field and pond ten kilometers from his home town, where Thomas had been struck by a lightning bolt at the age of twelve. He frequently goes there during storms and goes into almost a frenzy holding his arms up toward the sky and "charging" himself with electrical energy. Adjacent to the fasqueira is a small cave with a statue of St. Mary inside it. People will go there to pray and sometimes leave St. Christopher medals or coins behind. Thomas picked up one of the St. Christopher's medals and gave it to Theresa, his fifty-four year old blind cousin to keep for him. He asked for the small, dirty oval-shaped medal shortly following our experience with the medallion. It was placed on the table and he held his hand above it but we were able to maintain eye contact with the medal throughout. In a fraction of a second it suddenly transmuted into a larger, shinier medallion of Santa Lucia who is considered the patron saint of the blind in Brazil.

September 1992

PSI RESEARCH

PSI RESEARCH

Approved For Release 2003/09/10 : CIA-RDP96-00792R000700350005-8

This was presented to Theresa and it was a very moving moment for all of us as Thomas is very close to his cousin and has tried unsuccessfully to restore her sight on several occasions in the past.

Following a brief rest, the "energy" began building up again and Thomas took a piece of cigarette tin foil and rolled it into a loose cylindrical shape approximately one and a half inches long and a quarter inch in diameter. He obtained small figure had long hair, a full robe, the arms were crossed, and it was identified as San Onofre, patron saint of drunkards. There was considerable joking and frivolous insinuations at this point as to Thomas' drinking habits although he was not intoxicated at the time. Using the same sheet of tin foil and following more or less the same process (except for one of the tin foil "templates" which was rolled into a tight, round ball), Thomas proceeded to materialize three small metal statues of little monkeys with their hands over their mouth, eyes, and ears respectively. Again, very profound messages can sometimes come through in very simple and apparently innocuous ways. He added that to hear no evil, speak no evil, and see no evil would help us discover the basic goodness and perfection that exists within all of us.

We took a break at this point and room service brought us refreshments including a dish of ice cream and a salt shaker for Thomas. Just as he was transferring the first teaspoon of ice cream from the metal container to his mouth, the spoon instantaneously bent into a 360 degree "loop-the-loop" and the ice cream plopped onto Thomas' lap. He laughed at this unplanned "psychic joke," picked up another spoon and it too bent and flipped ice cream into his trousers as he was attempting to get it into his mouth. Just as he finished eating the ice cream with the curlicued spoon, the metal cup containing the ice cream suddenly folded so that the two edges came together and touched. We all tried to pull it apart but were unable to budge the two lips of metal. Thomas presented the cup to Gary who had earlier talked of losing weight - the implication being that he could never retrieve food from an almost sealed container.

Soon the prefatory signals of chills along both forearms indicated that Thomas' energy was building up but he remarked that "this energy" was different. He asked for a five hundred cruzeiro Brazilian note, took a pair of scissors and began in what appeared to be a daydreaming, engrossed state to casually trim all four edges of the bill, reducing it in size. Thomas took the bill and folded it, saying that he was going to transmute it into a currency of one different country. The bill was then handed to Jim who examined it making certain it was the same note. Jim was then asked to fold it several more times and hold it tightly in his closed fist while he held a piece of metal (a bent spoon) in the other hand as a "conductor" of energy. Thomas then began to kindle and build up the energy as usual, exploding and releasing with a loud "h-r-a-a-ah!" Jim felt that nothing had happened for there were no unusual sensations experienced at all. When he opened his hand and unfolded the bill it had transmuted into a brand new 10,000 Italian lire note which we have kept for documentation. There was a great deal of excitement and Thomas indicated that the "energy was becoming stronger."

I was then asked to produce a new, crisp bill and Jim provided me with an American one dollar bill. Thomas asked me to write my signature twice on the face of the bill and to fold the bill down several times. Again, Thomas never touched the bill and he remained on the other side of the table throughout, stripped to the waist. Thomas said he was going to invoke all the forces of spiritual and universal wisdom and burn my birthdate someplace on the bill. Despite all we had seen to date I silently questioned this since no one in our group knew my exact birthdate. Thomas took a cigarette and burned the back of my hand as a symbolic gesture and when I opened my hand a few moments later and unfolded the dollar bill, my birthdate, 06-01-1928 was burned along the edge of the bill.

Thomas said he was going to do something similar for Jim and I provided Jim with an American one dollar note. Jim folded it several times, held it tightly in his closed fist, and then extended his arm across the table to Thomas who still held the burning cigarette. Thomas said he was going to burn Jim's driver's license number on to the bill,

September 1982

PSI RESEARCH September 1982

PSI RESEARCH

Approved For Release 2003/09/10 : CIA-RDP96-00792R000700350005-8

and then burned the back of Jim's hand - punctuating this surprise, Jim reached into his pants pocket and took out a with his usual "h-r-a-a-ah!" When Jim unfolded the note of American one hundred dollar bills that were held what was burned on the edge was his American social security together by a thick elastic band. He took off the elastic, number rather than his driver's license number. Of interest, folded the currency and I was further astonished to see however is that an Idaho driver's license has at twelve to fourteen of his credit cards were inside the individual's social security number just above the driver's. It should be pointed out that not one person in our license number and on frequent occasions, people copying it was aware where Jim kept his credit cards. In down identifying data from the license frequently copy the discussing this with Jim later, he impressed upon us that no social security number for the license number. Upon return we ever had access to his credit cards since at all times to his hotel room Jim double-checked his social security they were either in his pocket or on the bedstand next to card which was hidden with other documents in a concealed place where he slept at night. (We all had single rooms).

place. We were convinced that no one had access to them. With his eyes shielded by his hand and facing the wall documents and there was no evidence to suggest they had been tampered with. Thomas began with "I see a Shell card," then correctly and quickly gave the nine digit identification number and the expiration date. He went on to say "American Express, eleven year old daughter Julie with him and Thomas became a member. . . (reciting the thirteen digits)" and expiration very fond and protective of her. On one occasion she was asked to produce, fold, and hold in her closed hand a press Card - you have two cards?" (it was an executive American bill (in this case a five dollar denomination) and card) and proceeded to rattle off the numbers like a Thomas then asked Julie what she would like burned on the computer. There were twenty cards in total, some were bill and she responded "Thomas this way (horizontally) duplicates, and others were club membership cards in Julie this way (vertically), the word 'love' in between, an addition to a telephone credit card. There was an average December, 1982." Thomas mobilized his energy in the usual nine digits per card and Thomas got all digits correct on fashion, burned the back of Julie's hand with a cigarette twenty cards. He even added qualifying remarks such as and when she opened her hand, the bill was burned with the words, just as she had requested. This is a different card - very hard plastic." It should be noted that Thomas spouted the numbers with such rapidity at Gary had difficulty in copying down the information quickly enough.

Shortly after the social security number experience, Thomas began asking questions about Uri Geller. The same evening Thomas asked me to bring out a bill of acknowledgment that his own metal bending powers did not begin with a denomination (American one dollar bill), to hold it until he saw Uri on Brazilian television in 1976 even though I fore me and visualize myself pretending I am tearing the he was able to do far more impressive phenomena by than I in two down a centerline. I did this several times in time. He also asked about Uri's telepathic abilities and mind's eye and at his request actually tore the bill in several side remarks he defended Geller's abilities as a mind's eye. I was asked to fold and refold the pieces several genuine. Thomas then seemed to become inspired and said that he was going to demonstrate telepathy. He went to the far end of the room, faced the wall, and we sat behind a sofa as a shield at the other end of the room. Jim was asked to take out his identification and Thomas would mobilized a reconstituting energy. The energy was released telepathically "read" the identifying information. Gary was then the now common "h-r-a-a-ah!" and upon opening my hand asked to prepare to write the numbers down and much to my ar. Thomas had Jim do the same thing and again a bill in two pieces was somehow reconstituted to its original

CIA-RDP86-00792R000700850005-8

Q. And you were as vigilant as possible during our first visit with Thomas and did not detect any instances of fraud or deception. Prior to our second trip in November, 1981, we both did not

On November, 1961, we had heard through several sources that Thomas had worked with a parapsychologist of international repute, William G. Roll of Chapel Hill, North Carolina. I spoke with Dr. Roll who alerted me to his observations of several instances of outright fraud on the part of Thomas along with very genuine psychokinetic phenomena. Throughout our second visit, we were extra-attentive, prudent, and mindful of Thomas with respect to Dr. Roll's cautions. We did not notice any evidence of fraud throughout the twelve days we were together.

What does Thomas have to say about his powers? Initially, he attributed his new-found capacities to the liberation of "latent human energy" after he was struck by a lightning bolt and "knocked out of his body" at age twelve. Since then, however, he has "revised history" and now states that he was struck by a "ray" from some sort of extra-terrestrial origin and ascribes his unusual faculties to "space energies" from parallel universes.

I am intrigued by his original version. For the past seven years I have had twenty-three children ranging in age from three to eleven brought to me for an opinion because of their unusual proficiencies. Nineteen of the twenty-three children had a history of severe electrical shock or an electrical insult (including lightning) to the mother's body while the child was in utero. While Uri Geller's assertions are considered a gordian knot by many scientists, he admitted to me in a personal communication that at the age of three and a half he saw a blue light under his mother's sewing machine, explored it with his finger and received an overwhelming electrical shock. Matthew Manning, a gifted British psychic, described a similar experience in his autobiography, as does Steve Shaw, a twenty year old student from Iowa. Peter Phillips [6], a professor of physics from St. Louis University, has studied Shaw extensively and ascribed metal bending and other psychokinetic phenomena under laboratory conditions. While this type of data is anecdotal there are low order implications of some type of cause and effect connection between a sudden and traumatic

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electrical shock and the unfolding of different types of psi abilities. On the other hand, golfer Lee Trevino has been struck by lightning eight times with no apparent psychic changes. The work of Burr [7], a neurophysiologist, suggests that varying gradations of consciousness result in significant electromagnetic shifts and bioelectric reorganizations of the body. I found his hypothesis a useful platform to begin speculating about the possible role of magnetism and electricity in the phenomena.

I hope that Thomas in his own unique way will contribute to widening our apertures of vision and consciousness.

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#### STUDIES IN NEN-GRAPHY IN JAPAN

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Our colleagues from Japan have described in their journal Psi Kazaku (Psi Research, Vol. 4, No. 1, September 1979; Vol. 5, No. 1, August 1980; and Vol. 5, No. 3, February 1981) several experimental series with a gifted subject, Masuaki Kiyota, who produced apparent psychokinetic metal-bending and thoughtography, i.e., exposed photographic film with mental (PK) influence. Assuming that an influence which is capable of exposing photographic film should possess some properties of light, the authors conducted experiments using a light-quanta detector (a silicon photo-diode - SPD) to record this influence called by the authors nen-field (thought-field). To record changes in the output current produced by the photo-diode, they used a high speed digital waveform memory or oscilloscope (photography as a memory). The authors found that the subject seemed to be able to control the appearance of the nen-field, thereby changing the output current of the SPD. The current was produced with interruptions correlated with the subject's intention. He could influence the SPD when it was placed in an opaque box at a distance of about 1.5 meters from him. Experimental results seemed to depend on the psychological state of the subject. The abilities of Masuaki Kiyota have also been described by Walter and Mary Jo Uphoff in their book Mind Over Matter (Oregon, WI: New Frontiers Center, 1980) - Editor's abstract.

#### 1. Method

We define thoughtography (nen-graphy) as a phenomenon produced solely by the direct mental influence of a specially gifted person on a photographic film surface in